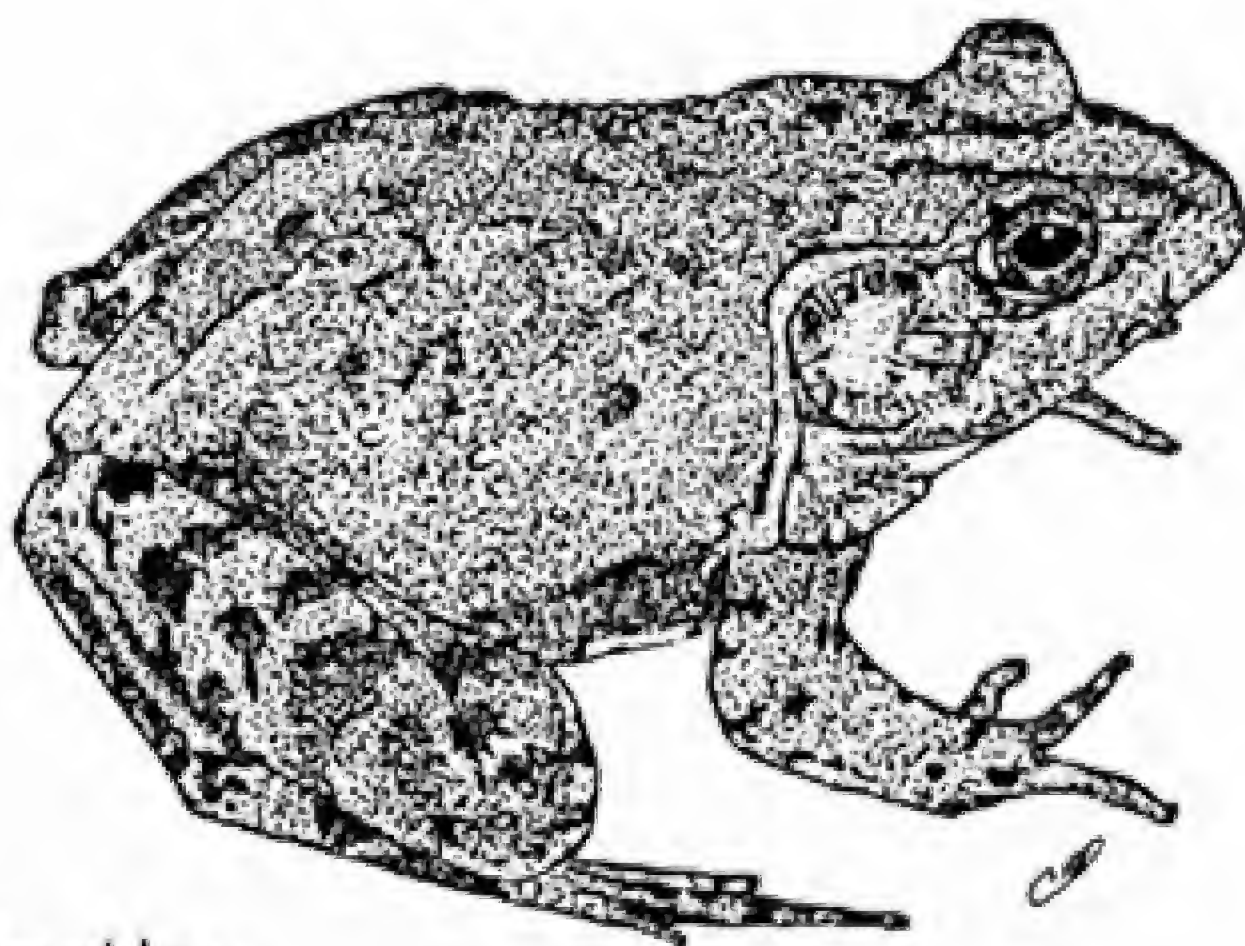


CATESBEIANA



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BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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BULLETIN INFORMATION

Catesbeiana is issued twice a year by the Virginia Herpetological Society. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles and includes a subscription to *Catesbeiana* and admission to all meetings.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The principle function of *Catesbeiana* is to publish observations and original research about Virginia herpetology. Rarely will articles be reprinted in *Catesbeiana* after they have been published elsewhere. All correspondence relative to suitability of manuscripts or other editorial considerations should be directed to Co-editors, *Catesbeiana*, Department of Biology, Liberty University, Box 20,000, Lynchburg, VA 24506.

Major Papers

Manuscripts being submitted for publication should be typewritten (double spaced) on good quality 8½ by 11 inch paper, with adequate margins. Consult the style of articles in this issue for additional information. Articles will be refereed by at least one officer (past or present) of the Virginia Herpetological Society in addition to the editor. All changes must be approved by the author before publication; therefore manuscripts must be submitted well in advance of the March or September mailing dates.

Reprints of articles are not available to authors; however, authors may reprint articles themselves to meet professional needs.

(Editorial policy continued on inside back cover.)

CATESBEIANA

Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society

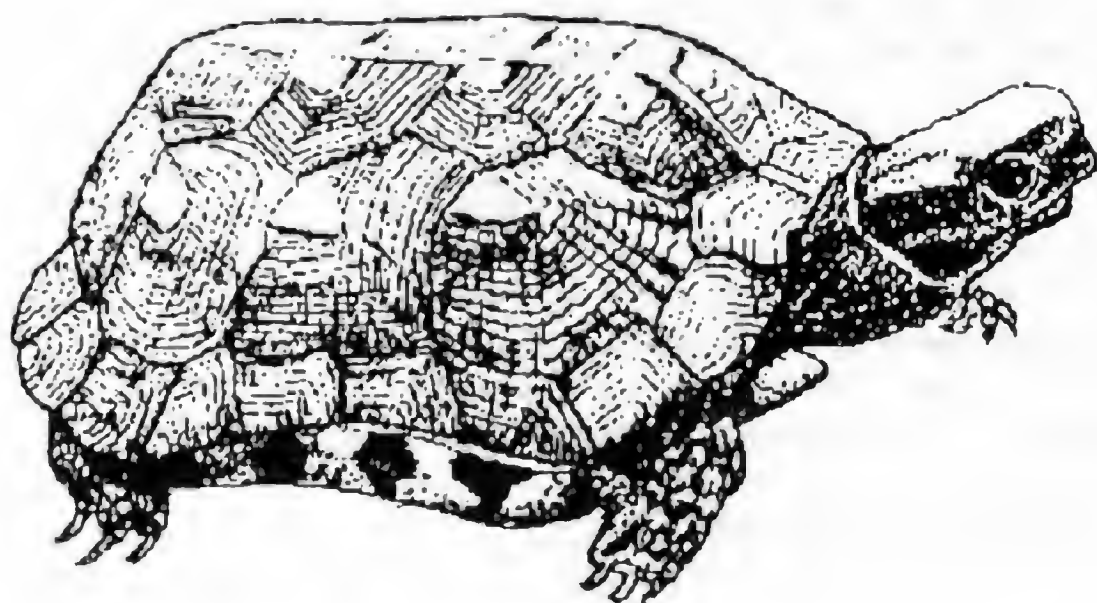
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MEETING NOTICE

The Spring 1996 VHS meeting will be held on 3-5 May 1996 at the National Zoological Park's Conservation and Research Center at Front Royal, Virginia. See pages 30-31 for details.



Clemmys insculpta
mfp 95

HYLA CHRYSOSCELIS ALSO CROSSES THE BLUE RIDGE

SIC JUVAT TRANSCENDERE MONTES:¹

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The known distribution of Cope's gray treefrog, *Hyla chrysoscelis*, has undergone an interesting evolution since the earliest recognition of two call types of what was then called *Hyla versicolor* by Francis Harper in 1935. The introduction of audiogram procedures quantified discrimination of call rates subject to variability induced by both geographic and thermal factors, but even prior to that innovation, a single observer (listener) could readily separate two (in the eastern States, at least) kinds of calls.

That some kind of allopatry was involved in the situation was first implied by Noble & Hassler (1936), based on their findings in estuarine Maryland. In brief, what seemed to be a more southern "harsh-voiced" ("fast call") form was gradually replaced by a more northern "mellow-voiced" ("slow call") form. A rather comparable displacement was noted by C. F. Walker (1946) for Ohio, where the "harsh" call type seemed confined to the southern, unglaciated part of that state (this pattern was immediately confirmed for neighboring Indiana by Mittleman [1947]).

Later in 1946, I published a summary of my observations in Virginia, which indicated that the "harsh/fast" call was confined to the Coastal Plain and upper Tennessee River drainage basin, also that the males associated with such a call averaged about 10 mm less in body length than those of the "mellow/slow" call type which occurred in the piedmont and mountain regions.

In succeeding years the distribution and taxonomic status of the two "call races" were clarified in papers by W. F. Blair (1958) and Clifford Johnson (1959, 1963, 1966), in the last of which Cope's early name *Hyla ferioalis chrysocelis* (1880) was revived to denominate the southern race as a valid sibling species reproductively isolated from the structurally identical northern form *Hyla versicolor* LeConte (1825). In a distribution map (1966, Fig. 1) based on sonogram data, Johnson showed that the range of *Hyla chrysoscelis* extended from eastern Virginia south to Florida, west to central Texas, thence northward to Kentucky and

Missouri. The distribution of *Hyla versicolor* was depicted as basically north of 40° N. Lat., with a southward extension down through the Appalachians to northern Georgia. In essence, the map confirmed and supplemented the ranges defined by previous authors. Most recently, the distribution of *Hyla chrysoscelis* in the northeastern end of its range was discussed by Zweifel (1970), who recorded the species from extreme southern New Jersey, its then and still northernmost known locality.

Subsequent to 1946, I continued to accumulate distributional records for the two species in Virginia, and in 1950, also in eastern Tennessee and Kentucky in company with James A. Fowler. In 1948, syntopic calling of the two was reported (Hoffman & Kleinpeter 1948: 607) at one site in Burkes Garden, Tazewell County, Va. As long ago as 1952, a transect of southern Virginia along US 58, on a late spring day following rain, confirmed the previously reported pattern, e.g., it was necessary to drive as far east as Emporia before the first "fast/harsh" calls were detected.

However, major changes in our preception of the ranges of the two species have occurred during the past several decades. Recordings made by J. C. Mitchell and C. A. Pague during the 1980s revealed extensive overlaps, and some sympatry, of the two forms in the Virginia Piedmont. Populations of *Hyla chrysoscelis* were located as far west as a line connecting Martinsville and Fredricksburg, a change confirmed by my own field experience between 1988 and the present. By 1991, it was the gray treefrog commonly heard in Henry County. In 1992, males were calling along Va. 40 between Ferrum and Woolwine in western Franklin County, essentially at the base of the Blue Ridge.

In June 1993, I heard a large chorus of *Hyla chrysoscelis* in an alder swamp beside the Blue Ridge Parkway, ca 4.5 km (AL) ESE of Floyd. in Floyd Co. This site, enclosed by the Parkway and Va. Rt. 637, is over a kilometer west of the Blue Ridge crest (watershed), at an elevation of 810 meters. The chorus was active again in late May and early June of 1994. I was unable to obtain specimens from this site but on 10 June 1994, Dr. Carl Gerhardt (who has been investigating this species-complex for several years) made sonograms of a male calling from a site less than a kilometer away, and confirmed my belief that the species is indeed *Hyla chrysoscelis*.

However, records for "upcountry" populations of *Hyla chrysoscelis* were made even earlier. In 1991, J. C. Mitchell, K. A. Buhlmann, and M. W. Klemens heard two males calling in a wet site about 5 km south

HYLA CHRYSOSCELIS

settlement of Meadows of Dan (Patrick Co.), and shortly after midnight on 13 July located a chorus at Mile 183.6 on the Blue Ridge Parkway (also in Patrick Co.). At this site they obtained three males and a female (deposited in the AMNH), both during calling and as road-kills.

I had visited the Floyd County alder swamp on summer nights in 1991 and 1992 for the purpose of light-trapping aquatic insects, without hearing any gray treefrogs. Yet the population must have been there for some time: so many could hardly have migrated in almost simultaneously. On 5 June 1994, I heard for the first time advertizing males along the entire length of the Shooting Creek ravine, in southwesternmost Franklin County. This feature is traversed by Va. Rt. 860 on which I have driven several times a month each summer since 1989 without ever hearing gray treefrogs. Most of the calling groups were small, in places very difficult to access, but I was successful in locating several frogs in a seepage area right beside the road, ca. 2 km east of the junction of Va. Rt. 860 with 635 in Floyd County (about a hundred meters west of the Floyd-Franklin county line). Males and a mated pair (VMNH 6549-50) were found in flowing water so shallow it did not cover their bodies, a preposterous breeding site for a frog which normally frequents small bodies of standing water.

During the calling season of 1995, on repeated visits to the sites just described (some of them on virtually the same day as in 1994), not a single call of *Hyla chrysoscelis* was heard despite generally similar climatic conditions! This was as true for lowland sites (along Va. 40, at 300 m.) as for those along Shooting Creek and in Floyd Co.

I am at a loss to explain these observations, which have occurred over just a few years in a part of the state through which I travel at nearly weekly intervals every summer: always driving slowly and often stopping to operate a UV light trap. It seems unlikely that I would miss hearing calling treefrogs prior to 1993. Yet it is also implausible that simple westward migration up and over the Blue Ridge escarpment (nearly 300 meters vertically in the 8 kilometers from Va. Rt. 40 to the Blue Ridge Parkway) could have been accomplished so quickly, and allow time for a substantial population to build up in the Parkway alder swamp site. Why did I not hear calling along Shooting Creek for several years prior to 1993, nor during 1995?

An almost mercurial spread of *Hyla chrysoscelis* across the Piedmont of Virginia and over the Blue Ridge strains one's credulity. If such hop-by-hop spread was not involved, one is forced to the conclusion that the species was well-established in the mountains but simply not calling when

I happened to drive past. The negative experience of 1995 (and somewhat similar experiences with hylids elsewhere in Virginia) suggests that species may inhabit a particular locality but be overlooked for years because of some inexplicable suppression of normal male advertisement during the mating season.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Drs. Joseph C. Mitchell and Carl Gerhardt for providing information about their finds of *Hyla chrysoscelis* on the Blue Ridge, and for readings over early drafts of the manuscript.

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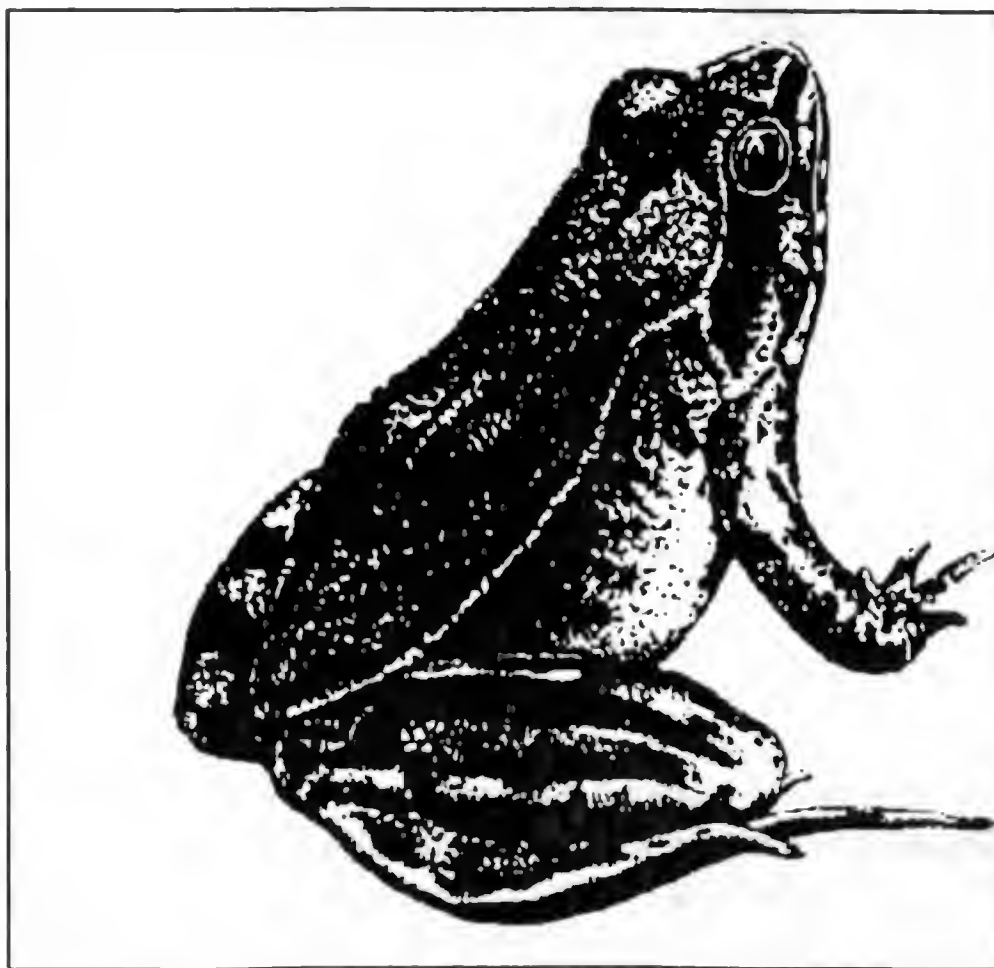
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Footnote to title

¹ "How pleasant it is to cross the mountains". This was the motto of the Spotswood Expedition, which surmounted the Blue Ridge at Swift Run Gap in 1716, and was struck on a medallion given to each member of the group.



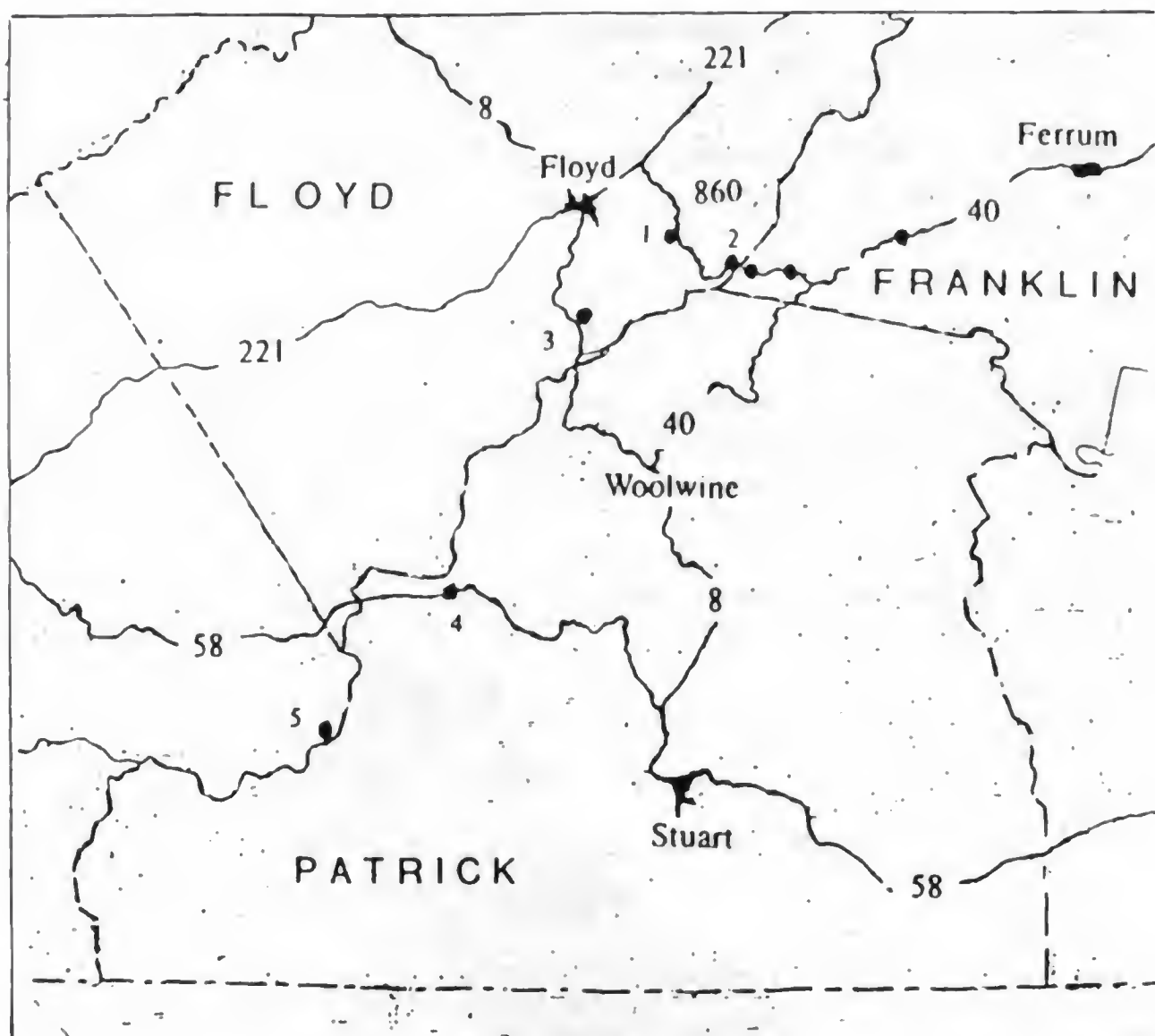


Figure caption

Fig. 1. Map of southeastern Floyd Co. with adjoining parts of Patrick and Franklin counties, showing localities mentioned in the text. (1) alder swamp at jct. Va. Rts. 860 and 637, (2) Shooting Creek, Va. Rt. 860, (3) near junction of Va. Rts. 8 and 714, (4) Meadows of Dan, (5) Mile 183.6, Blue Ridge Parkway.

For most of its length, the Floyd County line follows both the Atlantic-Mississippi drainage divide and the Blue Ridge Parkway closely.

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Regina septemvittata (Queen snake): VA: Smyth Co., Rt. 633 Bridge crossing, North Fork Holston River at McCready. 28 September 1994, M.J. Pinder.

While conducting an on-site environmental review on the North Fork of the Holston river, I observed a specimen of *Regina septemvittata* exhibiting tongue-flicking behavior underwater. I observed the specimen (about 500 mm TL) swim and probe the crevices of a large, flat boulder that was totally submerged. During this time, the snake frequently flicked its tongue. The specimen eventually disappeared under the boulder and reappeared approximately 10 minutes later. I suspect the snake was actively searching for its preferred prey, recently molted crayfish.

Although the finding that a snake will flick its tongue while underwater is not surprising, I could not find any reference to this behavior for the queen snake or any other water snake found in Virginia (Conant, R. and J.T. Collins, 1991. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians, Eastern and Central North America, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA 450 pp.; Mitchell, J.C. 1995. The Reptiles of Virginia, Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington D.C., 352 pp.) Most documentation indicates that the snake's tongue is used to pick up airborne or ground particles with no reference to particles in the water.

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Chelydra serpentina serpentina (Common Snapping Turtle). VA: Goochland Co., 0.2 km E Junction of I-64 and Co. Rt. 617, 1.0 km N Oilville. 17 October 1995. Joseph C. Mitchell and Christopher Todd W. Georgel.

Freshwater turtles are well-known for their terrestrial activity during warm months, especially during the nesting season (Ernst et al., 1994. Turtles of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington, D.C.). Snapping turtles in eastern Maryland are most active in late spring and early summer and become less active in late summer (Gotte et al., 1994. Res. Infor. Bull. 32, USDI Nat. Biol. Sur.). Terrestrial

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movements in cool to cold months are less well documented.

On 17 October 1995 we observed a common snapping turtle that had been killed by a vehicle during its late season terrestrial movement. The turtle was an immature female with a carapace length of 219 mm and a plastron length of 152 mm. Palpation revealed no eggs present. Mitchell (1994, *The Reptiles of Virginia*, Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington, D.C.) reported that the smallest known mature female had a plastron length of 155 mm. The actual date of terrestrial activity is difficult to ascertain. The turtle may have been killed while active during or immediately following the warm rains on 14 October. Its stage of decomposition suggested that it had been dead less than 2-3 days.

The normal activity season for common snapping turtles in Virginia extends from March to October (Mitchell, *op. cit.*). Dates of terrestrial movements outside of the May-June nesting season are not available for Virginia. An adult was observed crossing a road in North Carolina on an unusually warm day in 24 January (Palmer and Braswell, 1995. *Reptiles of North Carolina*, Univ. North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC). Gotte et al. (*op. cit.*) noted that one individual from Maryland vacated its dried-up summer retreat site in mid-October following a heavy rain only to burrow beneath a root mass in 25 cm of water in a wetland 20 meters away until the following March. Our observation demonstrates that common snapping turtles make overland movements in mid-October in central Virginia. The most plausible reason for terrestrial movements in the fall is to find suitable overwintering sites.

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Malaclemys terrapin (diamondback terrapin): VA: Accomack County, southern terminus of the Bypass Road, Wallops Island Flight and Launching Facility, Wallops Island. 17 September 1994. Warren P. Gray and Robert A.S. Wright

During an aerial photo interpretation project of NASA, we had occasion to inspect the ecotones between tidal marshes, saltbush thickets and sandy foredunes. It was our good fortune to secure the exoskeletal remains of

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a diamondback terrapin that had washed ashore and mixed with storm flotsam. We observed numerous shells, and collected the carapace of a large specimen (214mm, curved mid-line length) approximately 30 meters west of the southern terminus of the Bypass Road at the high tide line within a saltbush thicket. Evidently, a population is utilizing the vast salt marshes, tidal guts, shellfish beds and sandy beaches of the Cow Gut Marsh area. We were surprised to find that voucher specimens of this seemingly locally abundant estuarine turtle have not been recorded for Wallops Island, although site records do exist. A review of Conant et al. (Herpetofauna 1990 of the Virginia Barrier Island, *Va. J. Sci.* 41 (4A):371) and Mitchell (1994, *The Reptiles of Virginia*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C., 352 pp.) bear this out. The carapace will be donated to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Virginia.

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Heterodon platyrhinos (eastern hognose snake): VA: Accomack County: Wallops Island Flight and Launching Facility, approximately 200 meters north of the southern terminus of the Bypass Road. 18 September 1994. Warren P. Gray and Robert A.S. Wright.

An olive-patterned DOR specimen measuring 46.55 cm SVL of this species was observed late in the evening where it had been freshly killed crossing an elevated roadway on the southern end of Wallops Island. The habitat in the immediate vicinity of the road kill varies from high marsh dominated by saltbush (*Iva frutescens*) and wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) to dense, seasonally wet, sandy thickets of reeds (*Phragmites australis*). Several voucher photographs were taken, but unfortunately, they were severely underexposed due to poor lighting. As with the diamondback terrapin, only sight records are reported for the hognose snake on Wallops Island from May 1912 (Henry W. Fowler 1925, *Records of Amphibians and Reptiles for Delaware, Maryland and Virginia Copeia* 146:66) and Conant et al. (Herpetofauna 1990 of the Virginia Barrier Islands, *Va. J. Sci.* 41 (4A): 372-73). Scott (1986, *Notes on the Eastern Hognose Snake on a Virginia Barrier Island, Brimleyana* 12:54)

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remarked that few hognose snakes were found on Assateague Island in shrub habitat.

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Ophiosaurus attenuatus (eastern slender glass lizard) VA: Powhatan County: County Route 615 (Three Bridges Road), 1.9 km east of junction State Route 522, approximately 4.5 km SSE of Jefferson. 3 August 1995. Robert A.S. Wright

A DOR specimen of the eastern slender glass lizard was found along this dusty, unpaved section of Route 615 at a point where a high-tension power line crosses through mature hardwood forest. As reported by Mitchell (1994, *Reptiles of Virginia*, Smithsonian Press, Washington D.C. 352 pp), glass lizards frequent grassland habitats on dry, well drained soils. It is of note that this specimen was killed adjacent to a somewhat scrubby, grass-dominated power line easement cut through an otherwise closed canopied hardwood forest. Although the specimen was broken into several pieces, it measured approximately 44.60 cm and had a complete tail.

The gently rolling upland terrain in which this specimen was discovered is rapidly yielding to large-lot residential subdivisions. In some cases, recently clearcut land, which is in a broomsedge-dominated successional stage, is being developed for housing and associated infrastructure, thus destroying potential habitat for the glass lizard. This specimen, which is being donated to the Virginia Museum of Natural History collection, apparently represents only the third record for Powhatan County (Mitchell 1994, op. cit., page 148; Tobey 1985, *Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A distributional Study*, VA. Herp. Soc., Purcellville, VA, 114 pp.).

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Nerodia erythrogaster erythrogaster (red-bellied watersnake) VA: York County: jeep trail crossing at intermittent tributary to Beaverdam Creek, approximately 360 meters north of CSX railroad, and approximately 1000 meters east of the trail's intersection with County Route 636 (Richneck Road), about 2.8 km southwest of Battle Park. 23 March 1994. Robert A.S. Wright and Warren P. Gray.

During a late spring herpetofauna survey, we observed an intertwined pair of red-bellied watersnakes sunning on the bank of an intermittent drainageway which cuts across an unpaved jeep trail in the northern section of the Grafton Ponds Natural Area. Due to warm (approx 22°C) weather, the red bellied snakes were surprisingly alert, and after a few flicks of their tongues, escaped to submerged brush in the stream. It is plausible that these snakes may have been mating. According to Mitchell (1994, *The Reptiles of Virginia*, Smithsonian Press, Washington DC, 352 pp.), there are only two confirmed records for this species on the lower York-James Peninsula. Much of the land around this site is managed for watershed protection and forestry uses. However, large-scale conversions of hardwood forests to loblolly pine plantations are routine occurrences within the Grafton Ponds Natural Area, and have occurred immediately south of the site. The ecological consequences of this action on this and other local herpetofauna is unknown.

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Carphophis amoenus amoenus (Eastern Worm Snake). VA: Augusta Co., George Washington National Forest, Mills Creek Reservoir, 13 km S Stuarts Draft. 30 January 1996. Dawn M. Kirk.

Records of winter activity of snakes in Virginia are uncommon (Mitchell, 1994. *The Reptiles of Virginia*, Smithsonian Inst. Press, Washington, DC 352 pp.) This snake, an adult male (196 mm SVL, 44 mm tail length, 6.8 g), was found partially hidden under leaf litter on a trail leading to the reservoir at the edge of a hardwood forest. The discovery was made when the leaf area was stepped on. The snake was dead and frozen when

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found. Ice had formed around it's mouth because of accumulated blood. The site was located about 15 m from a severely flooded drain and 23 m from the edge of the reservoir. Its level had risen about 3 m at the time of flooding. The flood was the result of melting snow that had fallen around 7 January and heavy rain on 19 January. There was a subsequent warming trend 25-28 January (4.4-10° C daytime). The snake may have been displaced by high water or at least driven to the surface by flooding. It may have been active under the leaf litter during the slightly warm period and got caught in the cold snap that occurred at the end of January. The snake had a small puncture under the chin at the leading edge of the anteriormost ventral scale. We surmise that the snake was attacked by a predator or injured from rocks and other materials during the flood. Either one of these circumstances could have caused it to be exposed to freezing temperatures.

The normal activity period for this species in Virginia is March through December (Mitchell, *op. cit.*). This observation (specimen in the Virginia Museum of Natural History) represents the earliest seasonal record for this species in the Commonwealth.

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Sandra D'Alessandro and Carl Ernst (1995. Additional geographical records for reptiles in Virginia. *Herp. Review* 26(4):212-214) recently listed a variety of reptile species contained in the herpetology collection of George Mason University which provided some new county records and many previously unvouchered records in Virginia. As these are not listed in Mitchell (1994. *The Reptiles of Virginia*, Smithsonian Inst. Press. Washington D.C. 352 pp.) or Tobey (1985. *Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles. A Distributional Survey* VHS, Purcellville, VA. 114 pp) it seemed proper to list them here. Space does not permit a complete reference here, but the species and counties or cities are as follows:

Chrysemys picta (eastern painted turtle). Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax Co. and Alexandria, VA.

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Clemmys guttata (spotted turtle). Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax and Stafford Counties.

Clemmys insculpta (wood turtle). Previously Unvouchered Records for Warren County.

Pseudemys rubriventris (red-bellied turtle). Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax Co.

Terrapene carolina (eastern box turtle). New County Record for Culpepper County. Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William and Frederick Counties.

Trachemys scripta, (slider). Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax Co., and Alexandria, VA.

Kinosternon subrubrum (eastern mud turtle). Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax County.

Sternotherus odoratus (common musk turtle). Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax Co. and Suffolk, VA.

Sceloporus undulatus (fence lizard). New County Record for New Kent County.

Eumeces fasciatus (five-lined skink). New County Record for Culpepper Co. Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax and James City Counties.

Scincella lateralis (ground skink) Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax, New Kent, and Westmoreland Counties.

Carphophis amoenus (eastern worm snake). Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax and Prince William Counties.

Coluber constrictor (northern black racer). Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax County.

Diadophis punctatus (ringneck snake). Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax and Montgomery Counties.

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Elaphe obsoleta (black rat snake). Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax County.

Lampropeltis calligaster (mole kingsnake). New County Record for Albemarle County.

Lampropeltis getula (eastern kingsnake) Previously Unvouchered Records for Prince William Co.

Lampropeltis triangulum (milk snake) Previously Unvouchered Records for Clarke Co.

Opheodrys aestivus (rough green snake). New County Record for Clarke and New Kent Counties. Previously Unvouchered Record for Westmoreland County.

Agkistrodon contortrix (copperhead). Previously Unvouchered Records for Fairfax County.

Crotalus horridus (timber rattlesnake). Previously Unvouchered Records for Rappahannock and Augusta Counties.

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Ambystoma jeffersonianum (Jefferson salamander): VA: Allegheny County, Peters Mountain, 1.25 km NE of Thomas Spring. 30 June 1995. Dirk Stevenson and Christopher S. Hobson. FS 108 3.0 km NE of Longdale Furnace. 23 February 1996. Michael S. Hayslett and Lora B. Devan.

The Jefferson salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*) is presently known from 15 counties (J. C. Mitchell, pers. comm.) within the Ridge and Valley and Appalachian Plateaus Physiographic Provinces of Virginia. In a series of papers pertaining to the herpetofauna of Allegheny County, Virginia, (Hoffman, R.L. 1985a. The herpetofauna of Allegheny County, Virginia. *Catesbeiana* 5(1):3-12; Hoffman, R.L. 1985b. The herpetofauna

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of Allegheny County, Virginia: Part 2 - Class Amphibia. *Catesbeiana* 5(2):3-13.; Hoffman, R.L. The herpetofauna of Allegheny County, Virginia: Part 3 - Class Reptilia. *Catesbeiana* 6(1):4-10.) 16 salamander species were reported from the region, and mentioned it was plausible that *A. jeffersonianum* could occur in the county as well. Specifically, Hoffman (op. cit. 1985a) mentioned that this species was likely to be found with careful, seasonal search in wooded parts of the high anticlinal valleys.

This note details the collection of *Ambystoma jeffersonianum* from four sites in Allegheny Co., VA during 1995 and 1996. These collections represent the first records for the county, partially filling a distributional hiatus between Highland/Augusta counties and Giles/Montgomery counties (Toby, F.J. 1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey, VHS, Purcellville, VA. 114pp). Voucher specimens will be deposited in the Virginia Museum of Natural History herpetological collection.

Egg masses of the Jefferson salamander were first observed in Allegheny county on the night of 10 March 1995 by Michael S. Hayslett, although their identity was unconfirmed at that time. More than one dozen masses were noted in a small, vernal pool that contained some 6m of linear water surface and a maximum depth of 1m. Seven wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*) egg masses (dia. approx. 20cm, exhibiting pre-hatchling embryos) were observed and photographed toward the northern end of the pool. This vernal pool is located along the shoulder of FS 108 on the boundary of the Rich Hole Wilderness Area, GWNF, in the NE extension of the county about 3.0 km NE of Longale Furnace. Situated at the base of a SE-facing, hardwood ridge and above the floodplain of neighboring Simpson Creek, this isolated pool is fed by a seasonal spring head on its northern end and contains sphagnum mats throughout, as well as mature river birch trees (*Betula nigra*), which were inundated on this date. The pool bottom contained deep leaf litter and an abundance of submerged twigs and limbs for egg attachment.

On 30 June 1995, Chris Hobson, Dirk Stevenson and a group of students and faculty from the Virginia Governor's Schools Program collected a single juvenile Jefferson salamander from beneath a log in mature chestnut oak forest near the crest of Peters Mountain, GWNF, E of FS 175 and 1.25 km NE of Thomas Spring, Allegheny County, Virginia.

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Based on the size of this specimen, it is thought to have metamorphosed the previous summer. Slimy salamanders (*Plethodon glutinosus* complex) and a wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*) were also observed at this locality.

On the afternoon of 22 July 1995, Mike Hayslett returned to the vernal pool along FS 108 on the national forest and found it dry, but with an abundance of Jefferson salamander larvae concentrated under the damp litter at the pool's lowest point; most were newly or nearly metamorphosed (the draw-down schedule of this pool may be influenced by the thin buffer of shading vegetation that separates it from the adjoining forest road). Larvae were vouchered (and will be forwarded to the VMNH for disposition) and photographed at this time, as were immature wood frogs.

This pool along FS 108 was revisited during the daylight hours of 16-17 February 1996 by Mike Hayslett and James H. Scranton, when 39 egg masses were counted, several of these were from wood frogs, all others were from Jefferson Salamanders. The linear water surface of this narrow pool was about 32m on this date, with a depth of 1.5m. At 02:00 on the morning of 23 February 1996, Mike Hayslett and Lora B. DeVan were investigating the pool for breeding adults. More than a dozen *Ambystoma jeffersonianum* were seen among the leaf litter on the pool bottom. Seven were captured and examined, with all being mature males. Two adult wood frogs were also noted on this night. The site and its fauna were documented on video tape. One *A. jeffersonianum* is being maintained live in the facilities of *The Nature Zone* of the Lynchburg Department of Parks and Recreation. Color slides of this adult are being deposited with the VHS archives. The site of this disjunct population is located approximately 44 km ENE of the population discovered less than 20 hours later on Peters Mountain.

On the evening of 23 February 1996, Dirk Stevenson, Allen Belden, Jr., Karen Heffernan, Bill Moorhead and Beth Willis observed *A. jeffersonianum* at two isolated wetlands located on Peters Mountain, GWNF, 0.6 km N of FS 600 and 4.15 km NE of Thomas Spring, Allegheny Co., Virginia. These wetlands are located on benches on southeast facing slopes now in mature oak - black gum - maple forest. The first wetland at which *A. jeffersonianum* were observed is a natural 2.5 hectare pond, possibly of sinkhole origin, which can be described as a seasonally flooded peatland; the basin of this pond, inundated

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throughout to a maximum depth of 1.5 m when visited, is vegetated with winterberry, buttonbush, and sedges, and floating peat mats are present. Except for open water on the north side, most of the pond surface was ice-covered. Ten *A. jeffersonianum* adults were observed swimming among vegetation in 15-50 cm of water. All specimens captured and examined (N=6) were males, and the additional specimens observed also appeared to be males. No *A. jeffersonianum* egg masses were observed, but this pond is so abundantly vegetated that egg masses could easily have been overlooked. Hundreds of adult red-spotted newts (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) were seen at this site, including several dozen warty-skinned individuals (recent migrants?) which were observed crawling very slowly atop the ice near the margins of frozen portions of the pond. Several congresses of male spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*), *A. maculatum* spermatophores, and 4-5 gravid *A. maculatum* females were observed in the pond, but no egg masses of this species were discovered. A single spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) was calling.

Ambystoma jeffersonianum were also found at a nearby small (0.25 hectare) and rather deep (1.5 m) oval depression which is believed to be man-made. This pond lacks emergent or submergent vegetation, and has a substrate of deep silt and mud covered with substantial leaf litter. Approximately 20-25 Jefferson salamanders were observed in the pond, six of which were captured (4 males, 1 gravid female, 1 spent female). Several dozen *A. jeffersonianum* egg masses were found here, including several freshly deposited masses. Egg masses were attached to twigs and small branches from a few cm to 1m beneath the pond surface. Approximately one dozen male spotted salamanders, 2-3 spotted salamander egg masses, red-spotted newts and wood frogs were also observed. Over 30 wood frogs, including 4 amplexant pairs, as well as recently deposited egg masses and a large clump of communally deposited eggs were observed.

We are especially grateful to Bill Moorhead for leading D. Stevenson to the *A. jeffersonianum* ponds near Thomas Spring, sharing his knowledge related to the community types of Peters Mountain, and for assisting with habitat descriptions of these sites. Steven Roble reviewed and provided helpful comments on this note.

FIELD NOTES

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Hemidactylium scutatum (Four-toed salamander): VA: Chesterfield County. 20 February 1995. Dirk Stevenson.

On 20 February 1995, I observed four-toed salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) nests at a sphagnum depression in the Pocahontas State Forest, Chesterfield County, Virginia. In so far as I can determine, this appears to be the earliest nesting date for this species.

Wood (1955. The nesting of the four-toed salamander, *Hemidactylium scutatum* (Schlegel), in Virginia. Amer. Midl. Natur. 53(2):381-389.) documented that four-toed salamanders are common on the coastal plain of Virginia, and reported data for 224 four-toed salamander nests found at 21 localities in the coastal plain and piedmont of Virginia (the majority of these nests were from 18 localities in the coastal plain). The earliest nests found by Wood were observed on 24 February (in 1951) at a coastal plain locality near Williamsburg. Most four-toed egg masses found were deposited between 24 February and 10 March, leading him to state that peak nesting for this species occurs within a discrete two-week period. Wood also mentioned, however, that some females may occasionally oviposit outside of the peak nesting period. He received a report of four-toed salamander eggs close to hatching that were found near Denbeigh, Virginia on 4 March 1951. Taking into account the time required for four-toed salamander eggs to develop, Wood assumed that this clutch was probably deposited during December or January.

The earliest reported nesting date for the four-toed salamander that I located in the literature is 23 February for a single nest found in the upper coastal plain (Fall Line Hills), Bibb County, Alabama (Mount, H.R. 1975. The reptiles and amphibians of Alabama. Agric. Exper. Station. Auburn, Alabama. 347pp.). The earliest reported nesting dates for more northern sites, 2 April for Ohio (Daniel, P.M. 1989. *Hemidactylium*

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scutatum (Schlegel) - Four-toed Salamander. In: The Salamanders of Ohio. R.A. Pfingsten and F.L. Downs (eds) Bulletin of the Ohio Biological Survey 7(2):1-315.), 12 April for southern Michigan (Blanchard, F.N. 1934. The date of egg-laying of the four-toed salamander *Hemidactylium scutatum* (Schlegel) in southern Michigan. Papers Michigan Acad. Sci., Arts, Letters 19:571-575.), and 13 April for New York (Bishop, S.C. 1941. The salamanders of New York. New York State Museum Bulletin 324:1-365.) demonstrate that nesting in these areas occurs considerably later in the year compared to the Virginia coastal plain. Similar to the observations of Wood (op. cit.), the four-toed salamander populations studied by Blanchard in southern Michigan appeared to initiate and complete nesting within a period of two weeks (the later half of April for those in southern Michigan). However, another study in Michigan found gravid female four-toed salamanders migrating to breeding ponds between 28 March and 10 May, suggesting a more protracted period for egg deposition (Breitenbach, G.L. 1982. The frequency of communal nesting and solitary brooding in the salamander, *Hemidactylium scutatum*. J. Herp. 16(4):341-346.).

If the exodus from hibernation sites, subsequent movement to breeding ponds, and the initial nesting of female four-toed salamanders are stimulated by moderate soil/surface temperatures combined with rain, then it could be predicted that populations at more southern latitudes, especially populations within the southeastern coastal plain, may typically nest earlier than Virginia coastal plain populations. In North Carolina, coastal plain populations of *Hemidactylium* nest during January and February, while in the piedmont, nesting occurs during mid-late February (Braswell, A., per. comm.). The earliest date for which Braswell has observed *Hemidactylium* eggs in North Carolina is 21 February. *Hemidactylium* is absent from the Atlantic coastal plain of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, and occurs in scattered, isolated populations in the Gulf coastal plain of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Other than the aforementioned nest found 23 February in Alabama, I could find no references specific to four-toed salamander nesting dates for these states.

Considering Woods' (op. cit.) observations of *Hemidactylium* nesting in Virginia, my 20 February nesting observation is hardly surprising. On this date I observed five four-toed salamander females attending nests and another five gravid females beneath sphagnum moss lining a shallow

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depression (a voucher specimen, an adult female, will be deposited in the Virginia Museum of Natural History herpetological collection). On 1 March 1996, I revisited this site and found six nests and two gravid females. Preceding by discovery of nests on 20 February 1995, southeastern Virginia experienced several days of warm weather, including heavy warm rains on 16 February 1995. Spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) migrations to breeding sites were observed on the evening of 16 February in Louisa County (Hobbson, C., per. com.). Following hibernation, four-toed salamander females migrate to breeding sites in late winter-early spring. It can be postulated that the combination of moderate temperatures and heavy rains which stimulate spotted salamanders to migrate almost certainly are a good indicator that four-toed salamander migrations and nesting are underway.

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Ambystoma talpoideum (Mole salamander): VA: Campbell County, vernal pool complex in the floodplain of the Staunton River at Melrose, at the terminus of Va. Rt. 635, approximately 9 km W of Brookneal. 7 March 1996. David L. Dawson.

On the night of 7 March 1996, following earlier rains, David L. Dawson netted a Mole salamander in a small vernal pool near his home. He returned to the same pool on 10 and 11 March 1996 saw several spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*) and captured two marbled salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*) larvae. As a "Master Naturalist Course" student at the Lynchburg Department of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Dawson brought the specimens to me on 11 March 1996. To my delight, I identified the adult specimen as a mole salamander.

Accompanied by Mr. Dawson, his son David A. Dawson, and Paul W. Sattler, I examined the site on the afternoon of 14 March to evaluate this natural community. Based on Mr. Dawson's descriptions from the 1995 season and his discovery of the County Record for the wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*, *Catesbeiana* 15(2):51-52.) I suspected it might be a significant

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vernal pool community. The site proved to be a complex of floodplain depressions and canal remnants interconnected by minor watercourses, forming a network of vernal wetlands with over a dozen pools. The site was revisited on the evening of 15 March by David L. Dawson, Mike Hayslett, J.H. Scranton, Paul and Abigail Sattler, when a second adult spent female *Ambystoma talpoideum* was captured.

The discovery of this site represents the most westerly known locale for Virginia and the second and apparently most protected breeding site known for this species in the state (J.C. Mitchell, per. comm.). The mole salamander is known from only two counties in Virginia. The late Bob Bader first reported this species from a small, manmade ice pond in a stream floodplain of southwestern Charlotte Co. (Bader, R.N. and J.C. Mitchell. 1982. Geographic distribution: *Ambystoma talpoideum*. Herp. Review 13:23.). This site has since been logged and its current condition is unknown (J.C. Mitchell, per. comm.). Eggleston and Nagelmeyer found another site along the Turnip Creek floodplain in Charlotte Co., circa 1990 (D. Eggleston, per. comm.). The Campbell Co. record was apparently found along the Campbell/Charlotte county line (J.C. Mitchell, per. comm.), making the Melrose site the first locale clearly situated in interior Campbell Co., and is located approximately 23 km W of and upstream from Bader's original site.

Little is known about the mole salamander in Virginia, which has been considered threatened (Pague, C.A. and J.C. Mitchell. 1987. The status of amphibians in Virginia. Virginia J. Sci. 38:304-318.) and is currently a candidate for special concern status (Pague, C.A. and J.C. Mitchell. 1991. Mole salamander *Ambystoma talpoideum* in Terwilliger, K. (ed) Virginia's Endangered Species. McDonald and Woodward Publ. Co., pp.429-431.). Given the scattered and disjunct nature of this species in the state, efforts should be undertaken to ensure the preservation of this newly discovered site. It is noteworthy that this pool complex occurs along a state scenic river section, which could provide one source of protective land status (S. Smith, VDGIF, per. comm.) for the site and its buffer corridor.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is perhaps proper that my first President's Corner be something of a State of the VHS; giving my perspective on where I think the Society currently is and where I would like to see us go. The VHS membership has ranged between 80 and 140, for the past 5 years, yet most meetings have seen 20-30 members in attendance. I believe this demonstrates that many Virginians are interested in herpetology, but perhaps feel that the meetings are too technical or "professional" such that most members might feel out of place. While it is true that the Fall Meeting is a paper session with presenters giving the results of their research projects, it is not true that these presentations are beyond the understanding of even amateur herpetologists.

The last Fall meeting saw slide presentations on the possible decline of amphibians in Virginia, the processing of snapping turtles for food, the movements of radio-tagged bog turtles, pictures of some unusual behaviors in amphibians, and the results of a wood turtle survey. These talks were all delivered so that everyone can understand most if not all of the information given. The slides used gave us all the opportunity to see many familiar and some not-so-familiar herps. These talks give the "professionals" information on what others are doing in research, and the "amateurs" much useful information on the habits and habitats of a variety of herps. I would like to see some of the herp breeders give talks on the captive husbandry of some of the exotic herps. What exotic herps are easiest to keep as pets and/or breeding stock? What conditions must be met to keep the animals happy and healthy? What are the most common problems encountered and where can one find information or resources to counter these problems? A profusely illustrated slide talk on the rearing of green iguanas would be enjoyed by all. The best talk I remember from the 1988 Herp meeting at Ann Arbor, MI was Bob Bader's on the many successes he had getting amphibian species to breed in captivity using a green house. There is much I and many others would like to learn about rearing herps in captivity. I would also like to see slide presentations on the herp surveys that some members make, including a summary of our Spring survey.

The Spring meeting not only includes a business meeting, but features a herp survey of one special area in Virginia. Here is where I would like to see the VHS make a concerted effort by both "professional" and "amateur". We are selecting 4-6 sites from the different corners of the

PRESIDENTS CORNER

state. These sites are chosen so that we can all get out and see many of the species which occur only in that area. I have seen hellbenders, green, dwarf and yonahlossee salamanders in Southwest Virginia, carpenter frogs in the East, many-lined salamanders in the Southeast.

In the survey, amateurs and professionals are equally valuable. The purpose of the survey, in addition to just getting out to exotic parts of the state and seeing all types of neat herps, is to document how many individuals and different species we see. There is very little long-term data on the abundance or distribution of many herps (even the common species). Every issue of *Catesbeiana* finds new locality and county records for a variety of species. We need to document the distribution and abundance of herp species all over the state so that future generations of herpetologists will be able to determine if species ranges are decreasing or expanding, whether we are losing species, and whether any comebacks are occurring. Data and information are key to any attempts at managing habitats or species. Everyone can participate in these surveys, and help provide valuable information on the health of our herpetofauna.

I would encourage all our members to consider joining us at Front Royal from May 3-5 for this year's meeting. There is a place for all members in our surveys. We can use all the help we can get. Check out the meeting announcement and plan on meeting us for a fun weekend and see a lot of herps.

MINUTES OF THE FALL 1995 VHS MEETING

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. The North Carolina Herpetological Society meeting will be held on the first weekend in November. Kurt Buhlmann will be there to present his data on turtles.
2. Four hundred notices were sent to Virginia Public Schools to solicit interest for the teacher workshop held in conjunction with the VHS Fall Meeting. About 30 responded with their attendance. This approach was viewed as a big success. The Society was encouraged to continue this approach next year with a rotation of meeting sites to capture a wider group of educators (the Fall meeting has been at Liberty University for 4 consecutive years).
3. No minutes were available from the last business meeting.
4. There was \$537.98 in checking as of spring 1995. There were expenditures of \$983.04. The current balances are: \$2248.96 in checking and \$1262.76 in savings.
5. The *Catesbeiana* editor's report mentioned that manuscripts are needed as always.
6. The current membership was put at approximately 140 members. A mailing to remind members that the 1995 dues are overdue was suggested.
7. The Newsletter editor's report stated that 120 copies were mailed at a cost of \$50.00 for postage. Mike Pinder has now lost the assistance of the VADGIF staff member who used to help with the Newsletter due to a job translocation. This means that more work will have to be done by Mike. He requests information, especially one-page profiles of native herps (threatened and endangered or not) for the newsletter. It was suggested that these Herp Profiles could be reproduced by educators for distribution to the public.
8. Tax-exempt status for the VHS was discussed. It was questioned whether tax-exempt status was worth continued pursuit. There

MINUTES OF THE FALL 1995 VHS MEETING

was reference to this issue at the 1995 SSAR meeting. The benefits appear to be mostly for mailing privileges. The issue will be revisited.

9. Herp Poster. There is currently \$1050.00 donated toward this project. It was suggested that we not delay much longer to produce some sort of educational item since it has already been in the works for 4-5 years. The VHS has obligations to its donors to pursue some course of action or return the donations. Virginia Tech will be producing a salamander poster soon. Ron Southwick will continue to pursue VADGIF financing and/or sponsorship. For now, the VHS agrees to sit on these funds.

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mike Pinder discussed a use fee on sporting goods to finance nongame conservation (Teaming with Wildlife Project). It has been estimated that this project could produce \$7.6 million for Virginia annually if the initiative succeeds. Binoculars, cameras, ATVs, clothing and gear, could be taxed to benefit "nonsport" wildlife interests. Film manufacturers would be a major source of funds. Mike supplied a list of manufacturers to write, urging support of this initiative. It should be referred to as a "user fee" instead of a "tax". It was suggested that individuals target L.L. Bean (as a national trend setter) or your personal use company. Mike also requested that the VHS adopt a resolution supporting Virginia and national sponsorship of this initiative. A motion was made, seconded and carried, that the VHS formally support the initiative with a resolution from the Society. Mike will develop the Society's resolution as modified from the Virginia Coalition version.
2. The use of Common Names in identifying herps was discussed. The use of Joe Collins' 3rd edition of Standard and Common names was mentioned, but several voiced opposition to many of the common names used. The use of Mitchell (1995. The Reptiles of Virginia, Smithsonian Inst. Press Washington D.C. 352 pp) was suggested.
3. Election of officers. Paul Sattler assumed the role of President

(from President-elect). Nominations were received for President-elect (Mike Pinder) and Secretary/Treasurer (Mike Hayslett). Mike Pinder was asked if the dual role (with Newsletter editor) would be too great a work load. He did not think so. Members present voted to receive the two nominations for the respective offices.

4. A review of the VHS Constitution in regard to the President-elect's responsibilities led to the following addition: the President-elect will assume the role of meeting site coordination and related arrangements for Society meetings (Spring and Fall).
5. There was considerable discussion of the location for the 1996 Spring Meeting. Several possible sites were suggested, including the Great Dismal Swamp. Chesapeake (NW Landing Park) to assist researchers Mitchell Normal and Al Savinski on Canebrake Rattlesnake research was also suggested. Accommodations at Merchants Mill Pond State Park in NC or hotels in Great Neck, VA were suggested as possibilities. Al Savinski will be contacted and the Society's services will be offered to them for the Spring. It was agreed that the Chesapeake work might be better as an informal outing arranged for interested members. Massanutten Mountain was selected as the location to pursue for the 1996 Spring Meeting due to the fact that it is an isolated mountain system without past survey, and there may be more variety and family-benefitting activities there. The Eastern Shore was suggested as a possibility for the 1997 Spring Meeting (or future) site.
6. A motion was made and accepted to reimburse Doug Eggleston \$50.00 for expenses on folders for the educational workshop.
7. It was announced that there were 5 papers planned for the afternoon paper session for 2:00-4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael S. Hayslett
VHS Secretary/Treasurer

VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
Fall Meeting, October 28, 1995

Balance in checking reported at the Fall, 1995 meeting was \$ 537.98

Expenditures to date:

6/11/95	Chk #147	Office Supplies	21.91
6/21/95	" 148	Postage	2.24
7/19/95	" 149	Postage	6.39
8/10/95	" 150	Postage (newsletter)	50.00
9/19/96	" 151	Office supplies	22.97
10/27/95	" 152	Postage	4.64
10/27/95	" 153	Office supplies	15.01
10/27/95	" 154	Catesbeiana/postage	268.14
10/27/95	" 155	Reptiles of VA books	591.74
10/28/96	" 156	Postage	42.49
10/28/96	" 157	President's Plaque	27.20
		Bank service fees	<u>20.00</u>

Total expenditures \$1,072.73

Receipts to date: (dues and book sales) \$2,693.02

Balance in checking \$2,158.27

Balance in Savings \$1,262.76

Total VHS treasury as of October 28, 1995 \$3,421.03

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Southwick, Past President

ANNOUNCEMENT
SPRING 1996 MEETING OF THE
VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The spring 1996 meeting of the VHS will be held on 3-5 May 1996 at the National Zoological Park's Conservation and Research Center at Front Royal, Virginia. This 3 day field trip meeting will continue the VHS effort to survey the herpetofauna of Virginia. From Interstate 81 take Interstate 66 East to exit 6. At the end of the exit ramp turn right onto Rt. 522 South. Follow Rt. 522 South through Front Royal traveling about 6-8 miles until you reach the sign for the Conservation and Research Center (Gate 2) on your left. The Center is the first large building (interconnected Bldgs. 6 & 7) you come to after taking the left-most fork after entering gate 2. Parking is between the Center and the next building. From Interstate 66 West take exit 13 (Old Exit 3). At the end of the exit ramp turn left and go about 1/4 mile to a stop light. Turn right onto Rt. 55 west for about 6 miles into Front Royal. At the first stop light turn left onto Rt. 522 South. Follow 522 South for about 2 miles to Gate 2 on the left.

We will have the opportunity to survey the 1500 hectare National Zoological Park facility on Friday afternoon and Sunday morning. Saturday we will have 3-4 teams surveying specific sites on Massanutten mountain. The rooms in the Conference Center have bedding (2 singel beds per room). The charge is \$15/person/night. We have access to a refrigerator and microwave, but no real kitchen facilities. Domino's Pizza will deliver out to the Conference Center. If you would rather stay in a motel in Front Royal, several are available. The closest is Super 8 (540-636-4888) on Rt. 55, the Scottish Inn (540-636-6168) and Pioneer (635-4784) are not much farther.

Since we do not have access to kitchen facilities, we recommend bringing "sandwich fixings" and soft drinks if you plan on "eating in". There are fast food restaurants in Front Royal, about 6 km from the Conference Center. Participants should plan on bringing a sac lunch for Saturday afternoon as there are no nearby restaurants on Massanutten Mountain.

Dress for the weather, remembering that it will be cooler on Massanutten Mt. at higher elevations. We will conduct the surveys come rain or shine. Most of the sites will be dry hillsides, streams and ponds. Bring flashlights, boots, waders and nets if you have them. Bring your camera

AGENDA

as our "no collecting" policy will remain in effect. Remember to practice conservation and return rocks and logs to their original positions.

Schedule

Friday, May 3, 1996

2:00 pm	Early arrivals meet for Park Survey
7:30-9:00 pm	Business Meeting and Planning Session
9:00-???	Night forays for Natl. Zoo Park Survey

Saturday, May 4

7:30-9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am-6:00 pm	Herp Survey at Massanutten Mt.
7:30-9:00 pm	Compile data, plan for Sunday
9:00-???	Night forays for Natl. Zoo Park Survey

Sunday, May 5

7:30-9:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am- 12 Noon	Herp Survey at Natl. Zoo Park
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm - ???	Compile data, release animals, return home!

Fall Meeting Teacher Workshop

A Reptile and Amphibian Workshop was held for school teachers at the Fall meeting at Liberty University. A total of 28 teachers from 16 schools, and several VHS members were in attendance for the four-hour workshop. The four primary instructors included Mike Hayslett (amphibians), Doug Eggleston (reptiles), Carol Heiser (classroom activities), and Mike Pinder (threatened and endangered herps). There were numerous live specimens for the teachers to see and touch, and plenty of herp-related educational handouts. The teachers were able to evaluate the workshop at the end, and all gave the VHS and the instructors an "excellent" evaluation. With the success of this workshop, the VHS hopes to continue similar sessions on an annual basis throughout the state.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to ____ initiate ____ renew membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society for the year 19____.

____ I wish only to receive a membership list. Enclosed is \$1.00 to cover the cost.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Dues Category: ____ Regular ____ Family ____ Under 18 ____ Life
(\$10.00) (\$12.50) (\$6.00) (\$150)

Interests: ____ Reptiles ____ Amphibians ____ Captive Husbandry
____ Distribution ____ Research
____ Specifically _____

Make checks payable to the Virginia Herpetological Society and send to the treasurer: Michael S. Hayslett, Lynchburg Parks and Recreation, 301 Grove St., Lynchburg, VA 24501



Field Notes

This section provides a means of publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles that does not lend itself to full-length articles. Observations on geographic distribution, ecology, reproduction, phenology, behavior, and other areas are welcomed. Reports can be on single species or fauna from selected areas, such as a state park or county. The format of the reports is TITLE (species or area), COUNTY AND LOCATION, DATE OF OBSERVATION, OBSERVERS, DATA AND OBSERVATIONS. Names and addresses of authors should appear one line below the report. Consult published notes or the editor if your information does not readily fit this format.

If the note contains information on geographic distribution, a voucher specimen or color slide should be sent for verification and deposited in a permanent museum or sent to the Virginia Herpetological Society. Species identification for observational records should be verified by a second person.

The correct citation format: Tobey, F.J. 1989. Field notes: *Coluber constrictor constrictor*. *Catesbeiana* 9(2):35.

Herpetological Artwork

Herpetological artwork is welcomed. If the artwork has been published elsewhere, we will need to obtain copyright before we can use it in an issue. We need drawings and encourage members to send us anything appropriate, especially their own work.